

Malayalam as official language.

17. *MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether Urdu was recently made the official language in Hyderabad State; and

(b) whether they have considered the desirability of making Malayalam as the official language in the State?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: (a) Government have no information.

(b) No.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: May I know the number of English newspapers that Government have subscribed for during 1117?

PRESIDENT: How does that arise as a supplementary question?

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: I shall explain Sir. If Government were to subscribe for outside papers, both English and Vernacular papers, it is expected that responsible officers of the Huzur Office must know something about the nature of the orders prevailing recently in the particular country. In that way, Government must know about the Urdu language. My information is that that language was recently made as the official language in Hyderabad State.

PRESIDENT: Urdu was not recently made as the official language in Hyderabad State. It has been the official language for many years in that State. As a matter of fact when I appeared before Hyderabad tribunals, I had an interpreter by my side. So, from the High Court downwards, every practising lawyer coming from outside has to address the courts only in Urdu. His Exalted Highness the Nizam passes orders in Urdu. That is the position in Hyderabad.

In Travancore, the position is slightly different. Until recently educated people knew perhaps more English than Malayalam. I think there is one Department viz., the Devaswom Department here which is allowed to conduct its business in Malayalam and papers come to me only in Malayalam. That is the whole position.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: It is not a fact that the Hyderabad Government have recently issued orders for the strict observance of the rule that Urdu alone should be adopted for carrying on correspondence in Government?

PRESIDENT: No. The result of that would be that any stranger going over there cannot make himself understood anywhere, least of all in the Hyderabad Secretariat.